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Collaborative Digital Humanities training: the CHASE Arts and Humanities in the Digital Age (AHDA) programme

Francesca Benatti (The Open University), Paul Gooding (University of East Anglia), Matthew Sillence (University of East Anglia)

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The growth of Digital Humanities places increasing demands on postgraduate researchers to develop skills beyond their disciplinary boundaries. We will present the experience of developing a DH training programme for students of the Consortium of the Humanities and Arts South-East England (CHASE), a Doctoral Training Partnership comprising nine UK universities, organised around a three-day residential school followed by a series of optional one-day workshops and a two-day residential school across two locations, the Open University in London and the University of East Anglia in Norwich. We will reflect on three key issues for designing a cross-institutional DH training programme.

DH tools and methods are not embedded in undergraduate or postgraduate syllabi at most CHASE institutions, and many students embark on PhDs with limited awareness of them. AHDA addresses this, but it exists alongside training provision in CHASE universities, is not formally accredited, and requires a high level of commitment. These factors result in a high participant attrition rate. We will invite discussion on how to use AHDA as a springboard to develop a holistic programme of DH training covering the student journey.

We will outline the aims, content and structure of the programme and the affordances offered by including a residential and group work element in the programme. We will discuss the rationale behind the choice of sessions with particular reference to the need to support Early Career Researcher development in both Digital Literacy and DH.

Finally, there is a significant opportunity afforded by the programme's ability to foster closer collaboration with CHASE partner institutions in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums sector. In particular, we will discuss how our collaboration with the British Library in 2014/15 led to the active participation of BL doctoral students and staff in the 2015/16 iteration as both participants and teachers.

Abstract ideas for AHDA / Debates in the Digital Humanities Chapter

Link to OA edition <http://dhdebates.gc.cuny.edu/>

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- Chapter on 'state of play' of training cohorts of students not from DH backgrounds.
- Comparison of different models of training:
 - AHDA - longitudinal

- DH Summer Schools - intensive
- Others? Based around skills training through grad school? Ad-hoc training?
- Focus on implications for students:
 - What are the challenges of each approach?
 - How do DH skills fit within the wider context of their work?
 - What opportunities do holistic DH introductions give to students?

We might want to highlight some of the earlier works in the Debates series, such as that by Stephen Brier in 2012 on teaching digital humanities.